Over-Bridges in Maharashtra

1503. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals regarding Railway Projects received from the Government of Maharashtra pending for consideration by the Government.

(b) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) the details of projects cleared during the last two months; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken for the construction of overbridges on rail-crossings in the State to avoid traffic jams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No proposals are pending with the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following new projects in Maharashtra have been included recently in the Budget, 1996-97 :

Doublings

1. Panvel-Roha - Land Acquisition

2. Sewagram (Wardha East) - Chitoda

(d) Railways consider replacement of busy level crossings having traffic density of 1 lakh or more TVUs (Train Vehicle Units, a figure obtained by multiplying the number of trains by the number of road vehicle units passing the level crossing per day) by Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis on the request of State Governments who have to bear their share of the cost.

[Translation]

Ticketless Travelling

1504. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ticketless travellers apprehended during 1995-96 till date.

(b) the amount of penalty recovered from these travellers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the ticketless travelling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). During the year 1995-96 and from April to June, 1996, 91.42 lakh persons were detected travelling without tickets and/or with improper tickets and a sum of Rs. 89.15 crores was realised as fare and penalty from them.

(c) In order to curb the evil of ticketless/irregular travel, special and surprise checks are being regularly conducted by mobilising a large number of ticket checking staff and officers in association with Special Railway Magistrates, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force. In addition, massive concentrated checks like fortress checks, ambush checks, 96 hour drives are undertaken regularly. The minimum penalty for ticketless travel has also been enhanced in the Railways Act, 1989 from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 50/-.

[English]

Maintenance of Railway Platforms

1505. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have leased out a number of railway platforms for maintenance to the private parties, and

(b) if so, the names of the stations where platforms have been leased out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No separate contracts have been allotted for maintenance of railway platforms. However, the scheme of beautification/maintenance of stations in lieu of sole advertising rights is in operation at the following stations :

Jalgaon, Masjid, Dadar, Ghatkopar, Ludhiana, Jullandhar City, Amritsar, Jammu Tawi, Saharanpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Jalpaiguri, Madras Central, Chrompet, Kumbakonam, Mamblam, Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Hubli, Kharagpur, Bandra, Khar Road, Andheri, Kandivli, Borivli, Surat.

Flyover at Tamblai Railway Station

1506. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for the construction of a flyover at Tamblai Railway Station, and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Sir. There is no proposal from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

First Class Coaches

1507. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of trains in which the First Class coaches are not available;

(b) whether the Government servants are being put to avoidable inconvenience due to non availability of such coaches in the fast moving trains;